

Executive Summary

Wildfire poses a significant threat to the sensitive ecosystems, cultural sites, and training lands of the U.S. Army, Hawaii (USARHAW). The mission of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) is to fight and win military conflicts. This requires the use of munitions and weapons systems that often increase the chance of wildfire ignition and may damage important resources. This Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan (IWFMP) presents a comprehensive approach to reduce the frequency of wildfires and the associated costs and damages. USARHAW will implement this plan to comply with all applicable laws and regulations, to fulfill the requirements established by the Army Wildland Fire Policy Guidance dated September 2002, and to reduce the impacts of training related fires.

The IWFMP lays out specific guidance, procedures, and protocols in the prevention and suppression of wildfires on all USARHAW training lands with wildland fuels. Its goal is to convey the methods and protocols necessary to minimize fire frequency, severity, and size. At the same time it will allow military units to maintain a high level of combat readiness. It defines responsibilities of all offices, departments, and agencies involved, and describes fire pre-suppression and suppression actions to be taken on strategic as well as tactical bases. The document is organized around general wildfire management information; installation specific information, requirements, and upgrades; and Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for wildfire management actions at each installation.

The Installation Fire and Safety Office (IFSO) is the proponent for this plan. In addition to the IFSO, individual wildland fire managers are the Director of Installation Fire and Safety, as the Command Fire Marshal; the Installation Fire and Safety Office, Wildland Fire Program Manager; the Installation Fire and Emergency Services, Fire Chief; the Pohakuloa Training Area, Deputy Fire Chief; the Installation Fire and Safety Office, PTA Wildland Fire Coordinator; the Federal Fire Department, Fire Chief.

USARHAW will implement improvements to its land and firefighting resources that will enhance the response and capabilities of firefighters. Chief among these is establishment of a ten-person strike team that will serve as the primary initial attack force and will be under the direct control of the IFSO Wildland Fire Program Manager. Range Division, Hawaii will continue as first responders and provide initial attack on small, incipient fires until the IFSO Strike Team is fully functional.

Additionally, the IFSO will explore the possibility of purchasing at least one helicopter and employing the necessary crew to man it. This helicopter will be required to respond to any fire on USARHAW lands on Oahu or, if need be, to provide extended attack support for fires at PTA.

A number of firebreaks, fuelbreaks, and other wildland fire management improvements that will aid firefighters in containing and suppressing fires will be constructed. Some of these will also serve to help keep non-military ignited fires off of Army lands. The IFSO will employ a Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) Wildland Fire Coordinator to manage the numerous fire related projects and regular maintenance requirements there.

Range Division, Hawaii and specifically Range Control, will implement and strictly enforce a Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) for each of the installations under its jurisdiction. This system will restrict weapons fire and training depending on weather and vegetation conditions. Range Control will be responsible for retrieving the necessary weather data collected by

weather stations on the various installations, and communicating to training units any restrictions imposed as a result of adverse weather and/or fuel conditions. Range Control will ensure that restrictions are adhered to and that appropriate administrative disciplinary action is taken for non-compliance on the part of individual units and/or Officers in Command.

USARHAW will continue to expand its network of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) such that at least one weather station is functioning at each installation. Weather data from these stations will continue to be archived to provide a database from which future weather analyses may be possible.

This plan will be reviewed and updated bi-annually to ensure the latest information is consistently incorporated into Army wildfire prevention and suppression procedures. An ad hoc review committee will be convened by the Wildland Fire Program Manager and will consider fire activity, and prevention and response effectiveness. They will conduct an audit of fire expenses and recommend what, if any, changes are necessary to improve the wildfire management program. In addition, this plan is a living document and may be changed as necessary to account for the constantly evolving requirements placed on the Wildland Fire Management Program.